

Senate Resolution No. 24

Introduced by Senator Alquist

Relative to the Republic of Cyprus.

WHEREAS, California first welcomed immigrants from Cyprus in the early part of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Cypriot Americans thereafter settled in communities around the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco and in the agricultural centers of the Sacramento Delta, and the San Joaquin and San Bernardino Valleys; and

WHEREAS, Today Cypriot Americans are contributing and prospering in business, in academia, and in various professions in California and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Cyprus itself has been forcibly divided for more than 30 years by the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974; and

WHEREAS, The United States has expressed consistent support for the reunification of Cyprus based on the rule of law and has encouraged efforts toward a resolution that respects the rights of all Cypriots; and

WHEREAS, A United Nations-sponsored plan, known as the “Annan Plan,” was put to separate and simultaneous referenda before the two communities of Cyprus on April 24, 2004, and rejected by an overwhelming majority of Greek Cypriots in a free, democratic and fair vote, since it did not sufficiently address their basic concerns; and

WHEREAS, Cyprus has taken a large strategic step forward by joining the European Union (EU) in May 2004, and its EU accession is enlarging the scope of cooperation between Cyprus and the United States and will act as a further catalyst for a just settlement of the Cyprus dispute; and

WHEREAS, Cyprus, together with other EU partners, took a critical decision in December 2004 to permit Turkey to begin EU accession talks on October 3, 2005, recognizing that Turkey must abide by EU principles, values, and norms and this will significantly contribute to the further development of a secure and economically

robust Eastern Mediterranean as well as offering the prospect of providing a new context to resolve the longstanding division of Cyprus; and

WHEREAS, The Republic of Cyprus has announced and is implementing a series of economic and other measures to reach across the island's internal division and benefit the Turkish Cypriots living in the northern occupied territory of the country; and

WHEREAS, Cyprus has as a goodwill gesture unilaterally initiated a program to clear more than 2,300 mines in eight minefields in the buffer zone dividing the island; and

WHEREAS, Cyprus is a valued ally in the fight against terror and is expected to join President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative, an important step to battling the spread of weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, A lasting, just, peaceful, and mutually agreed upon solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey, and would serve United States interests in the region; and

WHEREAS, There has long been a strong friendship between the residents of California and the people of the Republic of Cyprus, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot alike; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate commends the people of Cyprus for their continued efforts in search of a just resolution of the Cyprus problem and calls on the President and the Congress of the United States to continue our country's historic support for the reunification of Cyprus, while fully respecting that the government of the Republic of Cyprus is the only legitimate sovereign authority for the entire island of Cyprus; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Senate Resolution No. 24 read and adopted by the Senate March 15, 2006.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate